

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application, with each of Claims 1-5 being independent claims. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being unpatentable over Pinard (U.S. Patent 5,898,432) in view of Horowitz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,774,866).

The present invention provides a method for a user interface in a portable terminal wherein a user can directly invoke an intended function using a state indicator, as well as view the state representation of the state indicator, so that it is not necessary to designate a particular key for the function, thereby reducing operator confusion as to key functions. It provides for a plurality of functions to be registered to a single indicator. Then when a certain event occurs, such as receiving an SMS or the battery level dropping below a predetermined threshold, the indicator is displayed. Upon the appropriate user input related to the state indicator, the registered function is invoked.

Pinard teaches a method of indicating to the user of a terminal with a display, the occurrence of a function which can be implemented on the terminal. The method includes displaying a user-movable cursor which has a form and location on the display related to the program currently in use and which is unrelated to the function. The form of the moveable cursor is changed to one which relates to the function upon the occurrence of the function.

Claims 1, 2 and 3 of the present application recite, in part, registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs, which the Examiner asserts is taught by Pinard. The Examiner takes the registering to be "upon occurrence of a status change, such as receipt of a telephone call, email, fax, etc, the appearance of an individual state indicator, i.e. the cursor, is changed to one which relates to the corresponding function related to the status change." Here, the Examiner incorrectly equates registering one of the plurality of functions with the change in appearance of the cursor. The change in appearance of the cursor is the altered state representation of the individual state

indicator. This change in appearance of the cursor is the only altered state representation recited by Pinard and is relied upon by the Examiner as teaching “altering the state representation of the individual state indicator (changing the appearance of the cursor) (Pinard Figures 2-5)” on Page 2, Par. 2, lines 9-10 of the Office Action). If the change in the representation of the cursor did not occur, then there would no altered state representation of any state indicators according to Pinard. Consequently, because Pinard teaches altering the cursor indication and not registering one of the plurality of functions, Pinard alone does not teach all elements of Claims 1, 2 and 3.

Claims 4 and 5 recite, respectively, registering an individual message reading function of the plurality of functions related to the message state indicator when the message arrives, and registering an alarm function of the plurality of functions related to the individual alarm state indicator when the alarm is set. For the same reasons as set forth with respect to Claims 1, 2 and 3, Pinard does not register an individual message reading function (as in Claim 4) or an alarm function (as in Claim 5) but merely displays the alteration of the representation of the individual message state indicator (as in Claim 4) or alarm state indicator (as in Claim 5).

The Examiner acknowledges that Pinard fails to explicitly teach invoking the registered function upon receipt of a user input for designating the individual state indicator.

Horowitz teaches a system for checking conflicts associated with proposed new matters in an organization which deals with numerous clients, where the system uses stored data defining associations between existing parties to select persons associated with the existing parties and signals the potential problem to select persons. Horowitz teaches a single and static assignment (i.e., by clicking on the alarm, the evaluator always produces the same result, the same command to supply a list is executed where the list contains potential matters of conflict). With Horowitz, the list is the one and only function associated with the indicator. The individual matters of potential conflict are simply elements of the list. Horowitz responds to the change in status of the “list” function, but only that function. The present invention provides for a plurality of functions to be registered to a single indicator. An RSSI (Received Signal Strength Indicator), alarm setting, arrival of an SMS (Short Message Service) message, battery strength, and call reservation

setting, are just examples of the functions that can be registered to a single indicator. Then when a certain event, such as receiving an SMS or the battery level dropping below a predetermined threshold occurs, the indicator is displayed and the corresponding function is registered. Upon the appropriate user input, the registered function is invoked.

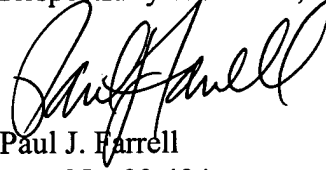
While Horowitz may register a single function related to a state indicator (i.e., providing a list) it does not disclose registering multiple and different types of functions related to the individual state indicator. This distinction is important with respect to the ability to support streamlining and down-sizing portable terminals while continuing to increase the functionality of individual keys. With the present invention a single stroke of one key or a single input will reveal any of multiple and different functions related to the state indicator. User confusion involved in key manipulation is eliminated and keys for exclusive purposes need not be designed separately.

Consequently Horowitz does not disclose registering one of the plurality of functions related to the individual state indicator corresponding to a current status change when the state change to be reflected in the representation of the individual state indicator occurs, as recited in Claims 1, 2 and 3. Similarly, Horowitz does not disclose registering the message reading function or alarm function, as recited in Claims 4 and 5.

Horowitz does not cure the failure of Pinard to teach the registering functions cited in Claims 1-5. Because Pinard and Horowitz, alone and in combination, do not teach the registering function cited in Claims 1-5, Claims 1-5 are believed to be patentably distinct from the cited references.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicant's attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul J. Farrell", written over the printed name.

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